

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 7-9 and 13-15 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

**35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0102958) in view of Aggarwal et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,706). These rejections are traversed as follows.

An important point of the present invention that a user can, by himself or herself, adjust characteristic terms and their scores, which are important parameters of the function of concept search (see JP 2000-339346, previously submitted in an IDS) and the function of concept search trainer (see JP 2001-117937, previously submitted in an IDS). The Examiner's attention is directed to these two publications for a further explanation of these functions.

The present invention has novelty from at least the point that characteristic terms and scores of the function of concept search trainer are parameters used as an estimation of search when users execute feedback of the search. The invention

is also directed to how to adjust for parameters that are to be sampled, which are definite. On the other hand, Aggarwal et al disclose catalogue shopping which shows how to adjust for database contents (i.e., how to construct a database), for which search objects are not definite. As such, the attempted combination of Anderson and Aggarwal et al cannot realize the advantages of the presently claimed invention. Therefore, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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